

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: September 27, 2023

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Norma Scogin, Chair
Matt Rose
Joseph Smith
Gerald Stefanski
Heidi Churchill
Julie Moran

Member Absent: Dominic Cammarano

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS

A. Public comment at the discretion of the Chair

B. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 17 – Saturday Office Hours – Debra Gremo, Town Clerk

Ms. Gremo discussed the intent of this article.

C. Presentation/discussion re: CP Act Funds – David Heard, CPC Co-Chair CPC

Mr. Heard read the Community Preservation Committee annual report into the record. Said report included what the Community Preservation Act is, what its purpose is, funds received & the three categories where funds can be allocated as well as percentages required to go towards each category. A brief question & answer session ensued.

Brief discussion ensued re: State reimbursement.

D. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 9 - #6 Chapel Lane – Lynne Sweet & Steven Beauchemin

NOTE: Mr. Smith recused himself from the table at this time.

Ms. Sweet of LDS Consulting explained Article 9 deals w/ an affordable housing rental project on Chapel Lane. The project cost is estimated at \$1.4 million. The project will consist of three homes each w/ two units which include three-bedrooms each. The request from CP funds is

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\$150,000. She is encouraged by the other sources of funding & looking at all options for funding. A question & answer session ensued.

Ms. Sweet discussed fair market rental costs, vouchers & the proposed site plan for the project.

E. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 11 – Westgate Property – Joshua Faherty, Conservation Administrator

Mr. Faherty displayed a map & pictures of the Douglas S. Westgate Conservation & River Walk property. Article 11 is a request for \$26,000 to build an observation deck & to fix the path at the property. Municipal Maintenance will remove the foundation that is presently there. A question & answer session ensued.

NOTE: Mr. Smith returned to the table at this time.

F. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 12 – Affordable Housing Trust – Carl Schultz, Chair of AHT

Mr. Schultz discussed the background of the Affordable Housing Trust & the State's AHT Act. Article 12 is a request for \$150,000 to be authorized by the Trust. He also noted that the Trust's remaining budget is already earmarked for other affordable housing projects & rental assistance for Woodland Cove residents. A question & answer session ensued.

Brief discussion ensued re: use of the Trust's funding for Woodland Cove residents & the process for requesting funding. A question & answer session continued, specifically re: the rental assistance program process.

Mr. Rose clarified that Ms. Schultz is stating, at this time, that the Trust has no money to give if someone came forward requesting funding.

G. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 29 – Gift of Bench – Brenda Eckstrom, Petitioner

Also present before the FinCom: Claire Panaglia

Ms. Eckstrom submitted a handout to the FinCom members re: Article 29. She proceeded to explain that Ms. Panaglia's family has owned a portion of land on Swifts Beach for over 60 years.

Ms. Panaglia stated her father would like to give a granite bench in memory of his wife to be placed on Swifts Beach. She discussed the dimensions of said bench. Her father has also offered to fix the foundational repair for the existing bench that is already there.

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Brief discussion ensued re: maintenance of said bench.

Present before the FinCom: Tricia Wurtz, Select Board member

Ms. Wurtz explained that this request did come before the Select Board & she explained why it is now a Citizens Petition, primarily due to the inability of the Town to maintain these benches. Brief discussion ensued.

H. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 30 – Amend Charter – Brenda Eckstrom, Petitioner

Ms. Eckstrom explained Article 30. She feels there needs to be accountability for entities that violate the Charter. She feels something needs to be added to the Charter re: this matter. The only option presently is to file a lawsuit. Other towns have a mechanism like the one being suggested in the article, included in their Charters. She suggested a Charter Committee. Lengthy discussion ensued. Some FinCom members expressed concern re: the value of this article & adding another level of bureaucracy.

I. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 31 – Amend Bylaws: Affordable Housing – Brenda Eckstrom, Petitioner

Ms. Eckstrom spoke re: the intent of Article 31, the proposed amendment(s) & examples of how said amendments would apply. A question & answer session ensued.

J. Discussion & possible votes on Fall Town Meeting articles previously heard

Ms. Scogin briefly noted articles already presented to the FinCom last week.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 6 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Rose seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 7 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Rose seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 8 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Rose seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

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MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 15 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Rose seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 16 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Rose seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

K. Discussion of plans for October Town Meeting Report

Brief discussion ensued re: disbursement timeline/deadline for the Town Meeting Report.

L. Acceptance of meeting minutes: September 13, 2023

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the meeting minutes of September 13, 2023. Mr. Rose seconded.

**VOTE: (5-0-1)
Ms. Moran abstained**

M. Report on authorization of invoice in the amount of \$56.25 for July 12, 2023, July 24, 2023 & September 13, 2023 meeting minutes

Ms. Scogin reported she has signed off on this invoice. She also noted a request has been made to the Town Administrator to renew the contract for the transcriptionist.

N. Liaison Reports

It was noted the Planning Board is working on reviewing the Warrant articles & the Capital Planning Committee is reviewing capital items.

- IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)**
- V. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME**

The next FinCom meeting will be held on October 4, 2023, Room 27, Wareham Town Hall

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M. Mr. Rose seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

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Date signed: _____

Attest: _____
Norma Scogin, Chair
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy submitted to Town Clerk: _____